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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - G-8: CLIMATE CHANGE - AFRICA
CENTRAL ASIA: SUMMIT IN KAZAKSTAN
PARIS - WEDNESDAY, JULY 06, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

- [1](#)1. G-8: CLIMATE CHANGE - AFRICA
- [1](#)2. CENTRAL ASIA: SUMMIT IN KAZAKSTAN

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

EXCEPT FOR THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC PRESS, EVERY OTHER OUTLET DEVOTES ITS FRONT-PAGE TO THE 2012 OLYMPICS AS "FRANCE HOLDS ITS BREATH" (LE PARISIEN) AND WAITS FOR THIS MORNING'S VOTE IN SINGAPORE. CATHOLIC LA CROIX'S LITERARY WINK HEADLINE READS: "IS PARIS WINNING?" FOR LE FIGARO IT IS "THE HOUR OF TRUTH FOR PARIS," WHILE LIBERATION HEADLINES: "PARIS HOLDING TO THE (OLYMPIC) RINGS." MANY EDITORIALS ARE DEVOTED TO FRANCE'S CANDIDACY AND ALL IT HAS RIDING ON THE FINAL CHOICE. FOR JEAN-MICHEL THENARD OF LIBERATION, THE QUESTION IS: "AFTER TEN YEARS OF 'CHIRACDOM,' WHY DOES FRANCE HAVE SO LITTLE CONFIDENCE IN ITSELF THAT IT NEEDS THE OLYMPIC MIRROR TO ADMIRE ITSELF?" THE CHIRAC-BLAIR CONFRONTATION OVER THE GAMES CARRIES OVER INTO THE SECOND MAJOR STORY OF TODAY, THE G-8.

RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO TITLES: "G-8: TONY BLAIR IMPOSES HIS PRIORITIES," WHILE LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION TITLES ON A FRONT-PAGE SIDE COLUMN: "AFRICA, A SPECIAL GUEST OF THE G-8." ECONOMIC LES ECHOS CARRIES A FRONT-PAGE PHOTO OF WORLD BANK PRESIDENT PAUL WOLFOWITZ AND TITLES: "HELPING AFRICA AND CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE G-8 MENU." INSIDE, A ONE-PAGE REPORT INCLUDES A STORY ON "LONDON'S ATTEMPTS TO LOWER EXPECTATIONS ON A MAJOR AGREEMENT." IN A SEPARATE ARTICLE, NICOLAS MADELAINE, THE WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, QUOTES WORLD BANK PRESIDENT PAUL WOLFOWITZ: "LIBERALIZING TRADE MUST BE PUT AT THE TOP OF THE LIST OF PRIORITIES. THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA MUST BE ABLE TO EXPORT THE PRODUCTS OF THEIR LABOR, IN PARTICULAR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. DEVELOPMENT MUST BE CONCEIVED IN THE WIDE SENSE. AID IS NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT, GOOD GOVERNANCE MUST BE ENCOURAGED. SO THAT THE LOCAL CLIMATE IS FAVORABLE TO PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENTS." REPORTS EMPHASIZE BLAIR'S POSITION OF STRENGTH GOING IN THE G-8, CHIRAC'S WEAKENED POSITION AFTER THE EU REFERENDUM AND THE FACT THAT HE CONTINUES TO OPPOSE PRESIDENT BUSH ON KYOTO. POPULAR RIGHT-OF-CENTER FRANCE SOIR TITLES "THE G-8 DEVOTED TO CLIMATE CHANGE" AND OPTS FOR A TWO-PAGE REPORT ON THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT ON FRANCE IN THE COMING YEARS. (SEE PART C)

LE FIGARO CARRIES A REPORT ON THE SUMMIT ON CENTRAL ASIA IN ASTANA, KAZAKSTAN, (SEE PART C)

LE FIGARO CARRIES AN OP-ED PENNED BY KOFI ANNAN TITLED "RE-ENFORCING THE UN." ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE, WELL KNOWN WRITER GUY SORMAN WRITES AN OP-ED TITLED: "THE GAMES BETTER THAN THE UN."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

G-8: CLIMATE CHANGE - AFRICA

"BLAIR IMPOSES HIS PRIORITIES"

ALAIN BARLUET IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (07/06): "AS THE PRESIDENT OF A WEAKENED EUROPE, BLAIR EXPECTS A DIPLOMATIC CONSECRATION FROM THE G-8 SUMMIT. THE SUMMIT IS EXPECTED TO BE DOMINATED BY SERIOUS DIVERGING FRANCO-AMERICAN VIEWS AND TO A LESSER EXTENT DIVERGING FRANCO-BRITISH VIEWS. ON THE EVE OF THE SUMMIT, PRESIDENT BUSH'S REMARK THAT THE U.S. WAS 'ABSOLUTELY' READY TO CANCEL AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES IF THE EU DID THE SAME WAS CLEARLY UPSETTING FOR CHIRAC. SIMILARLY, THE U.S. PRESIDENT REMAINED HOSTILE TO AN AGREEMENT ON THE CLIMATE IF 'IT LOOKED LIKE THE KYOTO PROTOCOL.' THIS IS THE ISSUE OVER WHICH IT WILL BE THE HARDEST TO REACH A CONSENSUS."

"CONSENSUS"

ANTOINE DE GAUDEMAR IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (07/06): "SUDDENLY EVERYONE SEEMS READY TO JUMP FOR AFRICA. WHY SUCH EAGERNESS? BECAUSE THE OTHER ISSUES ON THE MENU ARE LESS PALATABLE, LIKE CLIMATE CHANGE, WHICH WILL REMAIN A BONE OF CONTENTION BECAUSE OF AMERICA'S INTRANSIGENCE? BECAUSE THE SUBJECT IS MORE CONSENSUAL? EVERYONE AGREES THAT AFRICA NEEDS HELP. A CONTINENT OVERWHELMED BY DESPAIR AND MISERY. IS A TIME

BOMB. HENCE THE FIRST STEP AND THE CANCELLATION OF THE AFRICAN DEBT. ALTHOUGH SPECTACULAR IN APPEARANCE, THE CANCELLATION OF THE AFRICAN DEBT REMAINS AN INJUSTICE. THE POLITICAL DETERMINATION OF THE G-8 REGARDING AFRICA HAS EVERY CHANCE OF BEING LONG LASTING, BECAUSE IT IS BASED ON WELL-UNDERSTOOD INTERESTS. FOR THE AMERICANS, IT IS OIL, FOR THE FRENCH IT IS LEADERSHIP, AND FOR EVERYONE, THE FEAR OF SEEING NEW COMPETITORS LANDING, SUCH AS CHINA. PHILANTHROPY IS NOT NECESSARILY CYNICAL, BUT IT IS RARELY GRATUITOUS."

"AFRICA BACK IN EVERYONE'S GOOD GRACES"

CHRISTOPHE AYAD IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (07/06): "THE REASONS FOR THIS NEW INFATUATION WITH AFRICA ARE MANY. CHIRAC AND BLAIR NEVER MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THEMSELVES AS IMPASSIONED ADVOCATES FOR AFRICA. CHIRAC DEFENDS AFRICA'S INTERESTS AS MUCH AS HE DEFENDS FRANCE'S INTERESTS IN THE LAST OF ITS PRIVATE HUNTING GROUNDS: AFRICA IS THE LAST PLACE IN THE WORLD WHERE FRANCE'S VOICE COUNTS FOR SOMETHING, THUS ALLOWING IT TO PRESERVE ITS INFLUENCE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA. IN AFRICA, BLAIR IS TRYING TO CHANGE HIS IMAGE OF WARMONGER, WHICH RESULTED FROM HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE WAR IN IRAQ, ALL THE WHILE HONORING HIS COMMITMENT TO 'MORAL DIPLOMACY.' THE 9/11 ATTACKS HAVE AWAKENED AMERICA'S INTEREST FOR AFRICA. WHERE ARMS PROLIFERATION AND DRUGS ARE A SOURCE OF REAL CONCERN FOR THE WEST. BUT WASHINGTON ALSO WANTS TO DIVERSIFY ITS SOURCES OF ENERGY."

"LONDON WANTS TO LOWER EXPECTATIONS ON FINAL AGREEMENT"

LAURENCE TOVI IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LES ECHOS (07/06): "THE SUMMIT WILL PROBABLY SATISFY NEITHER THE PROPONENTS OF THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY NOR THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES. THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE STATED: 'THOSE WHO EXPECT THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY FROM THIS SUMMIT WILL BE DISAPPOINTED.' ON THE SECOND MAJOR TOPIC OF THE SUMMIT, CLIMATE CHANGE, PROGRESS WILL ALSO NOT BE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGH EXPECTATIONS. WHILE NO ONE ANY LONGER EXPECTS THE U.S. TO RATIFY THE KYOTO PROTOCOL, CONSIDERED TO BE 'A ROTTEN AGREEMENT FOR THE U.S. ECONOMY' BY THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT, WASHINGTON HAS NEVERTHELESS SOFTENED ITS APPROACH. WHILE THE PREAMBLE ON RECOGNIZING HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY IN CLIMATE CHANGE NEEDS TO BE NEGOTIATED, THE PRINCIPLE OF A PLAN OF ACTION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED."

"WILL BUSH GIVE IN ON CLIMATE CHANGE?"

FREDERIC GERSHEL IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE PARISIEN (07/06): "PRESIDENT BUSH INTIMATED HE DID NOT WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THE KYOTO PROTOCOL. BUT CHIRAC WARNED THAT THERE WILL BE NO AGREEMENT ON THE CLIMATE IF THE U.S., THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE POLLUTER, DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THAT THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT IS A REALITY TIED TO HUMAN ACTIVITY. HE WANTS THE KYOTO PROTOCOL EXPLICITLY MENTIONED IN THE FINAL DOCUMENT. LAST NIGHT, WHITE HOUSE ADVISOR STEVE HADLEY SAID: 'WE CAN ACCEPT LANGUAGE GOING IN THAT DIRECTION.' A FIRST STEP?"

CENTRAL ASIA: SUMMIT IN KAZAKSTAN

"BEIJING AND MOSCOW WANT U.S. TO WITHDRAW FROM CENTRAL ASIA"

JEAN-JACQUES MEVEL IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (07/06): "CHINA AND RUSSIA YESTERDAY MOVED THEIR PAWNS IN A VERY INFLUENTIAL REGION OF THE WORLD. THEY CONVINCED FOUR CENTRAL ASIAN STATES TO PUT A STOP TO AMERICAN MILITARY AMBITIONS AND POLITICAL INTERVENTIONS IN THE REGION. THE CONCERN OF AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES IN THE FACE OF ADVANCING DEMOCRATIZATION EXPLAIN THEIR RALLYING TO BEIJING AND MOSCOW. TO THEM, CHINA'S DICTATORSHIP AND RUSSIA'S AUTHORITARIAN DEMOCRACY LOOK MORE REASSURING THAN THE POLITICAL OPENNESS CALLED FOR BY THE WEST. THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE SUMMIT ILLUSTRATES THE STRATEGIC, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RISE OF CHINA IN A REGION WHERE THE U.S. IS TRYING TO ESTABLISH ITSELF LASTINGLY. THE SUMMIT COULD OPEN A NEW CHAPTER IN WHICH CHINA AND RUSSIA WILL FEEL SUFFICIENTLY STRONG TO BACK EACH OTHER AND DEMAND THAT THE U.S. BEGIN ITS RETREAT FROM CENTRAL ASIA. THIS QUESTION WILL BE RAISED DURING SECRETARY RICE'S TRIP TO BEIJING AT THE END OF THIS WEEK. THE FACT THAT IRAN WAS AN OBSERVER AT THE SUMMIT IN ASTANA CAN ONLY RE-ENFORCE AMERICA'S CONCERNS." STAPLETON